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Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"May I know whether the particular gentleman who has been appointed to act as Chief Inspector possesses those qualifications which have been prescribed?"

The Hon. Sir Mahomed Usman:—"As stated here 'his qualifications as well as those of the persons in the service, their experience, service and suitability for the post are all still under the careful consideration of the Government'."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"May I know what his qualifications are?"

The Hon. Sir Mahomed Usman:—"It is not possible for me to say that."

## Local Self-Government

*Alleged irregularity in Salem District Board in the matter of disposal of tenders for the supply of stationery articles.*

* 788 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether representations have been received from certain members of the Salem District Board in the matter of disposal of tenders for the supply of stationery articles for 1933–34;

(*b*) what orders have been passed in the matter and whether a copy of it will be placed on the table; and

(*c*) if orders have not been passed in the matter, why it is still kept pending?

*A.*—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government do not propose to interfere in the matter.

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—"May I know, Sir, whether any definite orders have been passed with regard to this matter?"

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"It is not possible for Government to take any action and Government will pass such orders as they consider necessary when the report of the auditor is received."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—"May I know whether it is open to the district board to act in direct violation of the Government Order with reference to the acceptance of tenders?"

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"It is not open to them to do so."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"May I know the nature of the representations made to the Government with regard to this matter?"

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"These representations are that the lowest tender has not been accepted and some other tender has been reduced to the figure of the lowest tender and the latter was

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accepted. It is not possible for the Government to investigate each case. When the report of the Auditor is received we will take the necessary action."

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—" May I ask, Sir, what objection do the Government have to place the report on the table of the House?"

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" Government do not consider it necessary to do so."

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—" May I know whether Government have called for any report from the district board when these representations have been received?"

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" Not in this particular case."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" May I know whether it is not generally the case for the Government to investigate cases of this character whenever they are brought to the notice of the Government and, if that is so, why in this case the Government have not thought fit to do so?"

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" In all such cases we send the papers to the Auditor for his information so that he may send his report in due course."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" May I know whether this concerns only the auditor in the first instance and does not concern the Local Self-Government Department of the Government who are there to set right things which are not right?"

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I never said that it does not concern the Government or that Government are not responsible. What I said was that Government would take the necessary action when the report of the Auditor is received."

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—" When such serious allegations have been received, may I know why a report is not called for or whether the Government will not be pleased to call for a report in the matter?"

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I do not know from whom the hon. Member wants us to call for a report?"

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—" From the district board."

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" Representations have been received in numerous cases and Government cannot investigate these directly at first."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" Is it the policy of the Government not to interfere with the actions of the district boards even when it is brought to their notice that certain boards have acted in entire violation of the strict Government Order issued by them?"

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The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I have never stated that Government have no intention of interfering. What I said was that Government do propose to pass orders when the report of the Auditor is received."

Mr. M. DEVADASAN:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government asked the District Collector to make an enquiry in the matter?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"No, Sir."

Mr. M. DEVADASAN:—"May I know why the Government have not asked him to make an enquiry?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Government consider that it is a matter for the Auditor to enquire into."

*Alleged irregularity in Salem District Board in the matter of the disposal of tenders for the maintenance works and roads.*

* 789 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether representations with regard to the disposal of tenders for the maintenance works on roads for 1933–34 by the President, Salem District Board, have been received;

(*b*) if so, when and from whom they were received;

(*c*) what orders have been passed in the matter; and

(*d*) if no orders have yet been passed, what the reasons are for the delay?

*A.*—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) From four members of the district board in 1933.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government do not propose to interfere in the matter.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"May I know, Sir, when a reference was received with regard to this matter?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"About two or three months back."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"May I ask, Sir, whether it was not in February last year?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I have to verify whether it was last year."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"Government say 'Government do not propose to interfere in the matter.' May I know what is their reason for saying so?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"The answer that I have given to the previous question applies to this question."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"I want to know whether there is any special reason for Government saying that they do not propose to interfere in the matter of the disobedience of the district board of the